

Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
Serial No.: 10/628,482
SUGHRUE MION, PLLC Ref: Q76512

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Kindly cancel claims 1-11 and add the following new claims:

Claim 12 (new): A method for producing a panel comprising at least one first region of compression-moulded thermoplastic or thermosetting material and a second region of injection-moulded thermoplastic material, comprising the steps of:

 providing a first and a second half-mould relatively movable along a vertical direction between an open position and a closed position, the half moulds having respective moulding surfaces having respective compression moulding regions and injection moulding regions facing each other;

 providing between said first and second half moulds a positioning element movable between an operative position and an inoperative position, said positioning element having a positioning surface which in said operative position extends along a border line between said compression moulding and injection moulding regions;

 providing a retaining element borne by one of said half-moulds and vertically movable with respect to the respective half-mould between an extracted and a retracted position, said retaining element having a retaining surface extending along said border line;

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positioning at least one plate of thermoplastic or thermosetting material in a plastic state between the compression moulding regions of said half-moulds, with an edge of said plate abutting said positioning surface of said positioning element when the positioning element is in its operative position;

retaining said edge of said plate along said border line by pressing said retaining surface of said retaining element against said edge during the closure of said half-moulds;

compressing the plate between said mutually facing compression-moulding regions of said moulding surfaces; and

injecting plastic material between said two mutually facing injection moulding regions of said moulding surfaces when the half-moulds are in the closed position.

Claim 13 (new): A method as claimed in claim 12, further comprising the steps of:
providing a lining sheet positioned between the compression moulding surfaces of said half moulds when the half-mould are in the open position; and
applying said lining sheet onto a surface of said plate by closing the half-moulds.

Claim 14 (new): A method as claimed in claim 13, further comprising the step of pressing an edge of said lining sheet against said edge of said plate by means of said retaining element during the closure of the half-moulds.

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Claim 15 (new): A method as claimed in claim 12, further comprising the step of providing in one of said half-moulds a plurality of grooves which extend astride said border line between the compression moulding region and the injection moulding region of the respective moulding surface and filling said grooves with injection moulded material during the injection of plastic material between said two mutually facing injection moulding regions.